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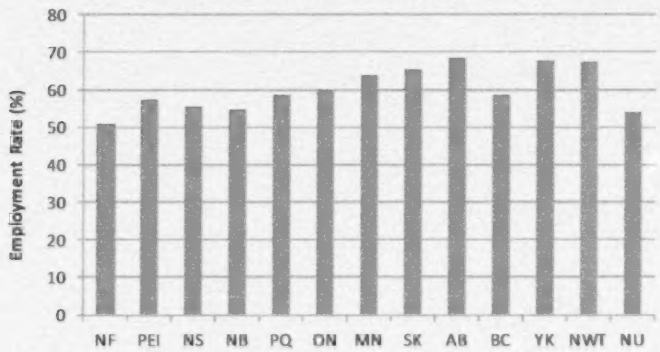
NWT Labour Force Activity
- March 2015 -

Statistics Canada estimates that in March 2015, out of 32,200 residents 15 years of age and older 21,700 persons were employed in the Northwest Territories, representing an employment rate of 67.4%. Nationally, Canada's employment rate was 60.2%.

Despite a slight drop from the previous month, the Northwest Territories employment rate was third highest in Canada, after Alberta (68.4%) and Yukon (67.7%)*. It was the lowest employment rate for March since 2010.

Figure 1 *Employment Rate*
Provinces & Territories, March 2015



Compared to the previous month, the unemployment rate increased by 0.5 percentage points to 8.1%, the highest since August 2014. The number of those not in the labour force followed historical patterns and was the same as March 2014.

Table 1 Monthly Highlights
Northwest Territories, March 2015

	Mar-15	Feb-15	Mar-14
Population	32,200	32,200	32,500
Labour Force	23,600	23,600	24,000
Employed	21,700	21,800	22,100
Unemployed	1,900	1,800	1,800
Not in Labour Force	8,500	8,600	8,500
Participation (%)	73.3	73.3	73.8
Employment (%)	67.4	67.7	68.0
Unemployment (%)	8.1	7.6	7.5

*Based on a 3-month moving average employment rate that is not seasonally adjusted.

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Table 2 shows the number of employed persons and the employment rate by key characteristics for the past three months. Between February and March 2015, there was a decline in the number of employed persons and the employment rate among those aged 15-24 years, females, non-Aboriginals, and people living in Yellowknife.

Table 2 ***Employment Rates by Key Characteristics Northwest Territories***

	Mar-15		Feb-15		Jan-15	
	Employed (Persons)	Employment Rate (%)	Employed (Persons)	Employment Rate (%)	Employed (Persons)	Employment Rate (%)
Northwest Territories	21,700	67.4	21,800	67.7	21,600	66.9
15-24 Yrs.	2,600	42.6	2,700	44.3	2,500	40.3
25 Yrs. & Over	19,100	73.2	19,100	73.2	19,100	73.2
Males	10,800	67.1	10,800	66.7	10,800	66.7
Females	10,900	68.1	11,100	68.9	10,800	67.1
Aboriginal	7,900	52.7	7,900	52.7	7,600	50.3
Non-Aboriginal	13,800	80.2	14,000	81.4	14,000	81.4
Yellowknife	12,200	79.2	12,500	80.6	12,500	80.6
Other	9,500	56.5	9,400	56.3	9,000	53.6

The overall number of employed persons decreased by 400 between March 2014 and March 2015. While the number of persons working in the public sector increased by 900, those working in the private sector and the self-employed decreased by 700 and 600 persons, respectively.

Table 3 ***Monthly and Yearly Change in Employment by Selected Characteristics Northwest Territories, March 2015***

	Feb-15	Jan-15	Feb-14	Feb-15 to Mar-15 Change (persons)	Mar-14 to Mar-15
Total Employment	21,700	21,800	22,100	(100)	(400)
Full-time	19,400	19,600	19,800	(200)	(400)
Part-time	2,400	2,200	2,300	200	100
Employees	20,200	20,200	20,000	-	200
Public	9,500	9,300	8,600	200	900
Private	10,700	10,900	11,400	(200)	(700)
Self-employment	1,500	1,600	2,100	(100)	(600)
Goods Producing	3,700	3,600	3,800	100	(100)
Service Producing	18,000	18,200	18,400	(200)	(400)

The following table presents historical labour force activity in the Northwest Territories.

Table 4 ***Labour Force Activity***
Northwest Territories

	Population 15 & Over	Labour Force	Employed	Unemployed	Not in the Labour Force	Participation Rate	Unemployment Rate	Employment Rate
Mar-15	32,200	23,600	21,700	1,900	8,500	73.3	8.1	67.4
Feb-15	32,200	23,600	21,800	1,800	8,600	73.3	7.6	67.7
Jan-15	32,300	23,400	21,600	1,800	8,900	72.4	7.7	66.9
Dec-14	32,300	23,300	21,600	1,700	9,000	72.1	7.3	66.9
Nov-14	32,300	23,400	21,800	1,700	8,900	72.4	7.3	67.5
Oct-14	32,300	23,700	21,900	1,800	8,700	73.4	7.6	67.8
Sep-14	32,300	24,300	22,500	1,800	8,000	75.2	7.4	69.7
Aug-14	32,300	24,600	22,700	1,900	7,700	76.2	7.7	70.3
Jul-14	32,300	24,900	22,700	2,200	7,400	77.1	8.8	70.3
Jun-14	32,300	24,400	22,000	2,400	7,900	75.5	9.8	68.1
May-14	32,300	24,300	22,100	2,200	8,000	75.2	9.1	68.4
Apr-14	32,400	24,200	22,200	2,100	8,200	74.7	8.7	68.5
Previous Years:								
Mar-14	32,500	24,000	22,100	1,800	8,500	73.8	7.5	68.0
Mar-13	32,600	24,300	22,400	1,900	8,300	74.5	7.8	68.7
Mar-12	32,300	24,500	22,400	2,100	7,800	75.9	8.6	69.3
Mar-11	32,100	23,900	22,400	1,500	8,200	74.5	6.3	69.8
Mar-10	31,900	22,100	20,300	1,800	9,800	69.3	8.1	63.6
Mar-09	31,700	22,700	21,700	1,100	9,000	71.6	4.8	68.5
Mar-08	31,800	23,800	22,300	1,500	7,900	74.8	6.3	70.1
Mar-07	31,400	24,700	23,700	1,000	6,700	78.7	4.0	75.5
Mar-06	31,100	24,200	23,100	1,100	7,000	77.8	4.5	74.3
Mar-05	31,100	24,000	22,800	1,200	7,100	77.2	5.0	73.3

Information on the territorial labour market is a result of the extension of Statistics Canada's national labour force survey (LFS) to the Northwest Territories. Data presented for the Northwest Territories is based on three-month moving averages, with survey counts rounded to the nearest 100 persons.

For additional information on the monthly release of labour force survey results for the Northwest Territories, visit the NWT Bureau of Statistics website at http://www.statsnwt.ca or call (867) 873-7147.

Next Release: May 8, 2015.